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Gatlinburg Once Again Named Tree City USA

Gatlinburg has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its continuing commitment to community forestry. It is the 22nd consecutive year that Gatlinburg has received this national recognition.

The City celebrated the designation with a program Thursday at Pi Beta Phi Elementary School.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Gatlinburg has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: implementation of a tree board, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

Members of the City of Gatlinburg's current Tree Board include B.J. Byars, Jan Lapides, Denny Reagan, Heath Soehn and Gail Valentine. The program is coordinated by Randall Brien of the Recreation Department.

"Trees in our cities and towns help clean the air, conserve soil and water, moderate temperature and bring nature into our lives," said John Rosenow, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Tree City USA designation recognizes the work of elected officials, staff and citizens who plant and care for the community forest.

"Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and provide environmental and economic benefits. A community and its citizens that recognize these benefits and provide needed care for its trees deserve recognition and thanks."